Chapter 2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Providers

Nevada sports a variety of natural resources available to the public for participation in outdoor recreation activities. More mountain ranges are found in Nevada than any other state except Alaska. Natural lakes include Tahoe, Pyramid, and Walker. Large man-made lakes include Lahontan, Mead, and Mohave. The Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service administer vast amounts of federal lands in Nevada, the majority of which are open to the public to pursue outdoor recreation activities. The Nevada Division of State Parks operates 24 park units for public use. The climate is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts, with sunny days most of the year, and snow in the higher elevations during the winter. Temperatures range from hot desert temperatures in the summer to colder temperatures in the higher elevations in the winter. These vast natural resources support almost any outdoor recreation activity in which one would wish to participate.

Introduction

An analysis of the outdoor recreation resources in Nevada must include a look at the two most significant factors influencing recreationists and the natural resource base which supports the provision of outdoor recreation activities occurring in Nevada. First, the population of Nevada is highly urbanized, with 94% of the population residing in urban areas in the year 2000 compared to 6% in rural areas (2000 U.S. Census Bureau data at website http://fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hbs/nv.htm).

Second, the federal government owns 87.6%, or 61,548,000 acres, of the 70,264,320 acres of land in Nevada (National Wilderness Institute 1995). The federal government owns more land in Nevada than any other state except Alaska. Federal ownership of 87.5% of the land resources in Nevada makes the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities unlike any of the other 49 states.

The vast majority of participation in outdoor recreation activities in Nevada originates in the highly urbanized areas of the state where over 94% of the population resides. Participation in resource based outdoor recreation activities occurs outside the urban areas in the more remote rural areas.

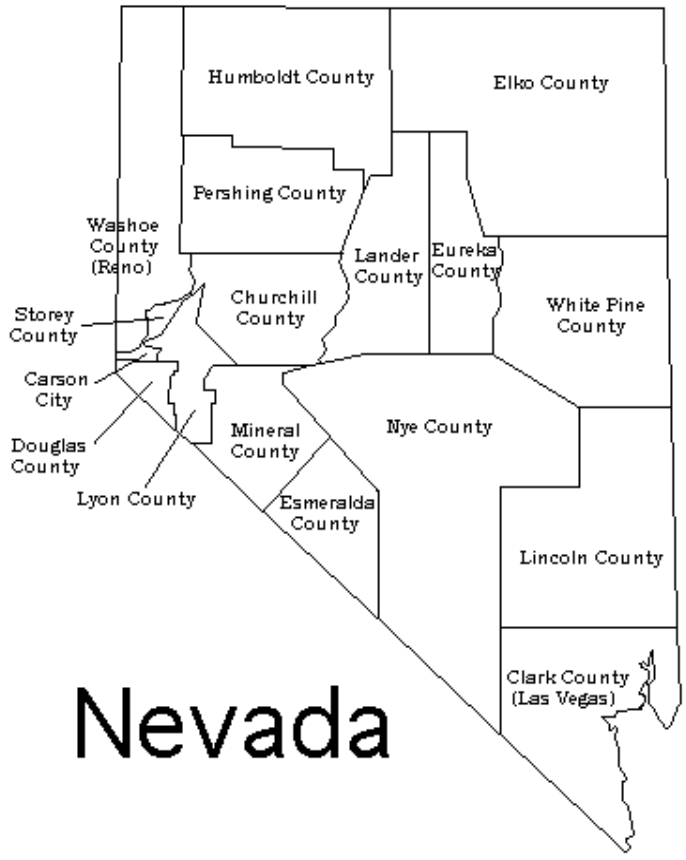
Nevada is comprised of 17 counties (figure 2.1). Much is said in this plan about the land ownership of Nevada, particularly the amount of land owned by the federal government. Table 2.1 gives the administration of lands in Nevada by federal agencies, Indian tribes, state government, and local

government and private lands (Harris 2001, Page 3).

Water Resources in Nevada

While Nevada is a relatively large state covering 110,540 square miles or 70,275,800 acres (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1991), the state sustains only 1,122 streams stretching 7,500 miles. There are 385 lakes, reservoirs, and ponds covering 427,050 surface acres, or less than one percent of the state, with a volume of 185,774,600 acre-feet (these numbers include the Nevada portions only of Lake Tahoe, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and Topaz Lake) (1992 SCORP, 2-9).

Figure 2.1
Counties in Nevada



Source: *Counties of Nevada* at website http://www.nevada-history.org/county.html (accessed September 9, 2003)

One of the most impressive aspects of the Nevada outdoor recreational picture is its strong orientation to water resources. Despite its arid and semi-arid character, residents and visitors have access to some magnificent lakes and reservoirs. There are abundant opportunities for boating and related sports within and bordering the state. In addition to the large natural lakes such

as Pyramid, Tahoe, and Walker, and man-made ones such as Mead, Mohave, Lahontan, Rye Patch, South Fork, and Topaz, there are 684 fishable rivers and streams in the state.

Precipitation

Nevada is the driest state in the United States. Precipitation averages less than 9 inches over the state as a whole. West central and southern Nevada receive 4 inches or less of precipitation per year. In Elko, in the northeastern part of the state, annual precipitation reaches 9 inches annually; in Reno, about 7 inches; and in Las Vegas it drops to just under 4 inches. Above 6,000 to 7,000 feet elevation in the mountains, annual precipitation rises to 15 inches. Marlette Lake, just east of Lake Tahoe, receives 27 inches of annual precipitation, the greatest amount for any area in Nevada. (Roe 2003).

Most of Nevada lies within the hydrologic Great Basin (figure 2.2), which is that portion of the geologic Basin and Range province with no drainage to the sea.

Table 2.1
Federal and State Lands in Nevada

County	Federal		Indian Reservation		State Government		Local Government and Private		Total Acreage
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	
Carson City	59,574	60.8	676	.7	5,591	5.7	32,079	32.8	97,920
Churchill	2,663,053	83.7	50,309	1.6	8,175	0.3	452,782	14.4	3,144,320
Clark	4,611,372	89.1	79,676	1.5	63,637	1.2	170,435	8.1	5,173,760
Douglas	247,818	51.6	60,705	12.6	1,634	.3	170,435	35.5	480,640
Elko	7,862,026	71.5	164,938	1.5	26,390	.2	2,942,487	26.8	10,995,840
Esmeralda	2,257,154	98.8	0.0	0.0	4,341	0.2	23,076	1.0	2,284,800
Eureka	2,126,463	79.5	0.0	0.0	6,423	0.2	543,593	20.3	2,676,480
Humboldt	4,961,616	79.9	27,948	0.5	8,074	0.1	1,212,922	19.5	6,210,560
Lander	3,265,396	90.8	719	0.0	360	0.0	331,324	9.2	3,597,440
Lincoln	6,699,446	98.3	0.0	0.0	19,805	0.3	97,469	1.4	6,816,000
Lyon	894,446	69.1	52,452	4.1	21,672	1.7	326,560	25.2	1,295,360
Mineral	1,972,402	80.3	219,783	9.0	29,714	1.2	233,781	9.5	2,455,680
Nye	10,712,385	92.7	9,249	0.1	20,810	0.2	818,516	7.1	11,560,960
Pershing	2,937,338	76.1	0.0	0.0	1,930	.1	920,572	23.9	3,859,840
Storey	16,315	9.7	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	151,362	90.3	167,680
Washoe	2,701,562	63.9	345,942	8.2	19,031	0.5	116,258	27.5	4,229,120
White Pine	5,330,462	93.5	70,670	1.2	9,119	0.2	288,949	5.1	5,699,200
State Total	59,288,828	83.8	1,083,077	1.5	246,076	0.4	9,080,725	12.8	70,754,600

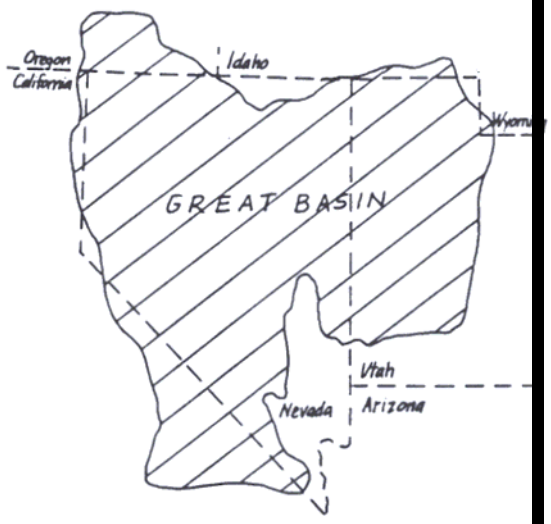
Source: Harris, Thomas R., William W. Riggs, and John Zimmerman. 2001. *Public Lands in the State of Nevada: An Overview*. Fact Sheet 01-32. University Center for Economic Development, University of Nevada, Reno. Reno, Nevada. Page 3. http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/FS01/FS0132.doc (accessed September 26, 2003)

Rivers and Streams in Nevada

Perennial streams flow from the mountains where heavier precipitation can sustain their flow into interior desert basins or lakes where the water evaporates or sinks into the ground. Among Nevada's rivers, only the Colorado River in the south and its tributaries (such as the Virgin River),

and several small streams along the northern border (part of the Columbia River System) are located outside the Great Basin and eventually reach the sea.

Figure 2.2
The Great Basin



Source: Nevada Division of State Parks. 1992. *Recreation in Nevada—1992 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. Nevada Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Carson City, Nevada. Page 2-10.

More common in Nevada is the intermittent stream that flows on a seasonal basis, usually in the winter and spring during the wet season and subsequent period of mountain snowmelt. Like the perennial streams, these intermittent streams are usually localized and originate in the higher mountains.

The most common stream in Nevada is the ephemeral stream. These streams can begin and end in a day. Ephemeral streambeds are normally dry. During heavy rainfall or snowmelt, runoff may quickly fill these streams to overflowing, creating a flash flood hazard downstream. The intensity of these floods is partly due to the lack of vegetation and thin soils common in the desert.

The volume of water flowing in most rivers and streams increases the further the water flows downstream. This is due primarily to tributaries feeding the rivers and streams as they continue their flow downstream. In Nevada, streams generally decrease in volume toward the terminal end of the system. Water is lost due to high evaporation rates in Nevada's dry, arid climate and the lack of tributaries feeding the rivers and streams. Thus, this phenomenon is due to natural causes. It is aggravated by man-made actions. Increasing withdrawals for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes decrease already critical inflows. Decreased flows increase the concentration of dissolved mineral solids in surface and ground waters. (1992 SCORP, 2-9).

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources divided the state into 14 major hydrographic regions for water planning and management purposes. These regions are each comprised of large, major drainage basins (1992 SCORP, 2-9).

Nevada can claim very few large rivers and streams compared to other states. Of particular importance are the characteristics of the following Nevada rivers and drainage basins:

Colorado River Basin: This region makes up 12,376 square miles of

Nevada, providing hydroelectric power, recreation opportunities, municipal water, and agricultural water. The Colorado River is located along the southeastern border of the state between Nevada and Arizona. Only 15 miles of untamed, or free-flowing, river are located in Nevada. Hoover Dam, located in Boulder City, Nevada, backs up the waters of the Colorado River to form Lake Mead, one of the most significant outdoor recreation resources in the entire region. Lake Mead is located along the southeastern border of the state in Nevada and Arizona.

Snake River Basin: This river system drains 5,230 square miles in northern Nevada and includes the watershed of the Bruneau, Owyhee, and Jarbidge rivers. The Snake River itself is not located in Nevada.

Humboldt River Basin: This is the longest river in Nevada and flows entirely within the State. Water of this river serves a predominantly agricultural purpose, as well as some domestic and recreational uses. The Humboldt River stretches 265 miles across northern Nevada. Tributaries feeding into the Humboldt River include the Little Humboldt, 75 miles in length; the North Fork of the Humboldt River, 95 miles; and the South Fork of the Humboldt River, 28 miles; Marys River, 20 miles; Reese River, 179 miles; and Rock Creek, 75 miles. This river terminates in the Humboldt Sink.

Truckee River Basin: This river originates in the Tahoe Basin which drains the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, and terminates in Pyramid Lake. However, much of the water is diverted for agricultural and municipal uses before reaching Pyramid Lake. The Truckee River is 76 miles in length.

Carson River Basin: This river drains the east slope of the Sierra Nevada, south of Lake Tahoe. The Carson River is second longest river in Nevada, at 121 miles. The East Fork of the Carson River is 22 miles in length and the West Fork of the Carson River is 14 miles in length. Upon reaching Lahontan Reservoir, the water is distributed throughout the Fallon area primarily for agricultural purposes. This river terminates in the Carson Sink.

Walker River Basin: This river also flows from the Sierra Nevada, south of the Carson River headwaters for 45 miles into Walker Lake, where it terminates. The river is used extensively for agricultural irrigation. Tribuatries include the East Fork of the Walker River at 52 miles in length and the West Fork of the Walker River at 35 miles long.

Other significant streams and rivers in Nevada include the Muddy, White, Virgin, Kings, Quinn, Marys, and Reese rivers. Some of these rivers are tributaries which flow into other major rivers (1992 SCORP, 2-10).

Table 2.2 lists the major streams and watercourses in Nevada and table 2.3 lists the major lakes and reservoirs in the state.

Table 2.2
Major Streams and Watercourses In Nevada

Name of River	County	Length in Miles
Kings River	Humboldt	36
Quinn River	Humboldt	100
Bruneau River	Elko	50
Owyhee River	Elko	45
Owyhee River, South Fork	Elko	80
Salmon Falls Creek	Elko	35
Jarbidge River, East Fork	Elko	18
Jarbidge River	Elko	16
Humboldt River	Elko, Eureka, Lander, Pershing, Humboldt	265
Little Humboldt River	Humboldt	75
Humboldt River, North Fork	Elko	95
Humboldt River, South Fork	Elko	28
Marys River	Elko	20
Reese River	Lander, Nye	179
Rock Creek	Elko	75
Truckee River	Washoe, Storey	76
Carson River	Carson, Lyon, Douglas, Churchill	121
Carson River, East Fork	Douglas	22
Carson River, West Fork	Douglas	14
Walker River	Lyon, Mineral	45
Walker River, East Fork	Lyon	52
Walker River, West Fork	Douglas, Lyon	35
Colorado River	Clark	15
	Total	1,497

Source: Adapted by James A. DeLoney, NDSP, from the *1992 Nevada SCORP*, p. 2-12, from the Nevada Division of Water Planning, *Nevada Water Facts.* 1980.
*Many of these streams and watercourses cross state lines. Their Length In Miles is given for only that portion of the river located in Nevada

Declining Recreational Water Resources in Nevada

The arid desert climate in Nevada makes the retention of river flows and lake levels tenuous when compounded by the demands placed on the water for human use. Excessive water withdrawals from rivers and streams adversely impact the life of the river or stream, the lake they feed, and the wildlife populations they support. In 1996, American Rivers listed Walker River on their Twenty Most Threatened Rivers list as the 19th most threatened river in the United States.

Walker Lake also faces grave threats to its continued existence as a freshwater lake. Walker River and Walker Lake are classic examples of disappearing scarce recreational water resources in Nevada. The following quote is cited from an article published by the American Rivers (1996). This article summarily captures the plight of the Walker River and Walker Lake.

Table 2.3
Major Lakes and Reservoirs In Nevada

Name of Reservoir	County	Surface Acres	Volume Acre-Feet
Wild Horse Reservoir	Elko	2,830	73,500
Wilson Sink Reservoir	Elko	828	10,469
South Fork Reservoir	Elko	1,650	±40,000
Lower Pitt-Taylor Reservoir	Pershing	2,570	22,000
Upper Pitt-Taylor Reservoir	Pershing	2,070	24,000
Rye Patch Reservoir	Pershing	11,400	171,000
Lake Tahoe*	Carson, Douglas, Washoe	36,812	125,000,000
Pyramid Lake	Washoe	108,000	25,000,000
Washoe Lake	Washoe	6,100	37,000
Lahontan Reservoir	Churchill, Lyon	14,800	322,000
Topaz Lake*	Douglas	1,205	126,000
Walker Lake	Mineral	38,800	2,990,000
Weber Reservoir	Mineral	950	13,000
Ruby Marsh	Elko	9,000	13,000
Lake Mead**	Clark	90,000	29,700,000
Lake Mohave*	Clark	14,000	1,820,000
	Total	341,015	185,361,969

Source: Adapted by James A. DeLoney, NDSP, from the *1992 Nevada SCORP*, p. 2-12, from the Nevada Division of Water Planning, *Nevada Water Facts.* 1980.
*These lakes/reservoirs cross the Nevada-California stateline. Their surface acres are given for that portion of the lake or reservoir located in Nevada only. The "Volume Acre-Feet" is for the entire water body.
**Lake Mead is located in Nevada and Arizona. Surface acres cited are in Nevada only; the "Volume Acre-Feet" is for the entire Lake Mead.

"Walker River (1996)

Threat: Excessive Water Withdrawals
Location: California, Nevada
While most rivers gather water and grow larger as they flow, the Walker loses water until it reaches Walker Lake, which has no outlet. This unusual closed system is threatened by excessive water diversions from the Walker River that have caused the river to run dry in its last stretches and lowered Walker Lake by 143 feet since 1882. The lack of incoming freshwater has increased the salinity of lake to such an extent that stocked fish can't survive in the mineral-rich waters and have to be acclimated before entering the lake. The increasing salinity has led scientists to estimate that without large inflows of freshwater from Walker River, the lake's ecosystem will cease to function in two to four years (Author's Note: Walker Lake still sustains a fish population seven years after this article was written, but the future of the fish population is very uncertain, according to a Jim French, Nevada Division of Wildlife biologist (personal communications between DeLoney and French).

The River

The Walker River is a Great Basin River that originates in the high peaks of the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and ends in a glorious desert lake in western Nevada. Walker River and Lake constitute a desert ecosystem that has sufficient cold-water habitat to support an abundant population of large trout. Although the fish population has been in great decline for decades, the river and lake continue to attract anglers, who generate hundreds of thousands of dollars for the local community. Campers and picnickers come to the lake's shores to admire its high desert beauty, and every year hundreds of common loons use the area as a major migration stopover

The Risk

The area has remained a popular destination despite the fact that the wildlife population, the river, and Walker Lake continue to shrink at an alarming rate. In the last century Walker Lake has lost 70 percent of its volume and half its surface area…The reduction of flows from the Walker River has starved Walker Lake, which receives 90 percent of its inflow from the river. In 1995, Walker Lake received inflows from Walker River for the first time in seven years. Scientists estimated that if the lake had continued to dry out, its ecosystem would have collapsed in a few years.

The loss of incoming freshwater from the Walker River is greatly increasing the salinity of the lake and threatens the fragile ecosystem. The fish population has been in serious decline for decades. After the river and lake's native perch and carp died out in the 1950s, the state began stocking trout into the watershed. Now the stocked fish have to be acclimated before being released into the lake, and the increasing salinity kills off the stocked trout long before they can grow into trophy size.

What Can Be Done

It is possible to increase the flows in the Walker River without destroying agriculture in the basin. Studies show that adding an additional 45,000 acre-feet per year to the river would stop the current decline. This amount of water, and much more, could be obtained from the purchase of water rights from willing sellers, and the marketing of saved water to the lake. Combined with conjunctive-use management of the basin, which increases efficiency and decreases operating costs, all interests could benefit.

In 1992 the Walker Lake Working Group was formed to preserve the lake. It is now meeting with agricultural users to develop plans to protect the lake while continuing to provide for irrigation. Mineral County, Nevada, where Walker Lake is located, has also initiated a lawsuit to obtain water rights through a readjudication process."

This brief article describes the decline of a valuable outdoor recreation water resource in Nevada. Prompt actions are needed to reverse the decline of Walker River and Walker Lake.

Each year, America Rivers lists America's most endangered rivers. In 1996, American Rivers ranked Walker River as the 19th most threatened river in the United States on their list of twenty most threatened rivers. In 1997, American Rivers listed two additional rivers in Nevada on their list of most endangered or threatened list. The Lower Colorado River was listed as the 9th most endangered river in the United States. Traditional subsidies for use of Colorado River water were cited as the root cause of the degradation of the lower Colorado River system. These subsidies encourage high demand and inefficient use of water (American Rivers 1997).

The second river in Nevada listed by American Rivers in 1997 was the Virgin River. The Virgin River originates east of Zion National Park and ends by traversing the Virgin Valley in Clark County finally to flow into Lake Mead. Threats to the Virgin River originate with man-made decisions and actions (American Rivers 1997).

Mountains in Nevada

"Nevada is characterized by isolated, long, narrow, roughly parallel mountain ranges and broad, intervening, nearly flat valleys and basins…The Silver State has more mountain ranges than any other state except Alaska." (Mic Mac Media 2001). The majority of the mountains are open to the public for outdoor recreational purposes. Mountain ranges not open to the public are located on military installations. These ranges are

closed to the public for security purposes and safety reasons.

Mountains are strong resource attractions to many outdoor recreationists. When residents of Texas were asked "Which three of these areas would you most like to visit in Texas?", mountains were found to be the most popular at 62%, followed closely by rivers and streams at 61%. Lakes or reservoirs were third at 58%, forests fourth at 42%, and desert at 7%. (Goldbloom and DeLoney 1987). A similar study needs to be conducted in Nevada to determine the demand for natural resources in Nevada for outdoor recreation pursuits. This study should determine the origin and destination for this demand. This information would help public land managers plan for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in Nevada. It would also be useful for those interested in tourism and economic development in Nevada

Mountains in Nevada are not "world class" meaning high, rugged, heavily glaciated, awe-inspiring spires of ice and rock such as the Himalayas, the Andes, the Alps, or the ranges found in Alaska or western Canada. This lack of world-class mountaineering opportunities is one of the best things about the mountains in Nevada. The mountains in Nevada offer much more in the way of outdoor recreation to a broader range of outdoor enthusiasts than the "world class" mountains. They are high and rugged enough to offer fantastic scenery and pristine wilderness, but not so high and rugged that only expert mountaineers with piles of expensive gear dare venture into the high country. Nevada ranges are prime country for the hiker, backpacker, scrambler, rock climber, skier, hunter, and fisherman, rather than the hard-core mountaineer (Slayden 1996).

Mountains with forests, streams, and snow are particularly desirable in Nevada. Higher elevations are more apt to receive sufficient snowfalls to support winter recreation activities. Hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, and winter recreation activities are just a few of the popular outdoor recreation activities in mountain settings.

Table 2.4 lists 100 of the most prominently named mountain peaks in Nevada, all of which reach elevations over 10,000 feet. The listing in table 2.3 is found at "americas roof.com" website (Rowlett 2003). Other mountain peaks in Nevada also exceed 10,000 feet in elevation. Some of these peaks are located on military reservations and are not accessible to the public.

How does the elevation in Nevada compare to other states? Elevation in Nevada ranges from a low of 479 feet in Clark County at the California border near Needles to the 13,143 foot Boundary Peak in Esmeralda County on the California border. The 13,063-foot high Wheeler Peak in the Great Basin National Park in White Pine County in eastern Nevada is the highest peak entirely in Nevada.

The lowest point in the United States is in Death Valley in California at –282 feet below sea level. Surprisingly, the lowest points in two states is above 3,000 feet. The lowest point in Colorado is 3,320 feet and Wyoming is 3,099 feet. Only two other states boast low points above 2,000 feet—New Mexico at 2,840 feet and Utah at 2,000 feet (Rowlett

2003) (http://americasroof.com/lowest.shtml accessed September 26, 2003).

Table 2.4
Nevada's 100 Highest Named Summits

Feature Name	Elevation	County	Latitude	Longitude	Map
Boundary Peak	13143	Esmeralda	375046N	1182100W	Boundary Peak
Wheeler Peak	13063	White Pine	385910N	1141845W	Wheeler Peak
Jeff Davis Peak	12771	White Pine	385919N	1141747W	Wheeler Peak
Baker Peak	12298	White Pine	385813N	1141858W	Wheeler Peak
Moriah, Mount	12067	White Pine	391624N	1141144W	Mount Moriah
South Summit	11941	Nye	384508N	1165533W	Mount Jefferson
Pyramid Peak	11921	White Pine	385655N	1141738W	Wheeler Peak
Charleston Peak	11918	Clark	361620N	1154139W	Charleston Peak
North Summit Mount Jefferson	11814	Nye	384742N	1165535W	Mount Jefferson
Arc Dome	11773	Nye	384957N	1172107W	Arc Dome
South Schell Peak	11765	White Pine	392010N	1143557W	South Schell Peak
Taft Peak	11734	White Pine	392103N	1143523W	South Schell Peak
Washington, Mount	11676	White Pine	385454N	1141830W	Wheeler Peak
Lincoln Peak	11597	White Pine	385258N	1141747W	Wheeler Peak
Bald Mountain	11562	White Pine	390114N	1141918W	Windy Peak
Mummy Mountain	11530	Clark	361758N	1153852W	Charleston Peak
Currant Mountain	11513	White Pine	385436N	1152525W	Currant Mountain
Ruby Dome	11387	Elko	403719N	1152827W	Ruby Dome
Toiyabe Dome	11361	Nye	384756N	1171502W	Arc Dome
Southeast Summit	11353	Nye	384910N	1172052W	Arc Dome
Toiyabe Dome Southeast Summit	11335	Nye	384746N	1171446W	Carvers
Hole in the Mountain Peak	11306	Elko	405703N	1150718W	Humboldt Peak
Troy Peak	11298	Nye	381908N	1152957W	Horse Spring Hills
Silliman, Mount	11253	Elko	403708N	1152720W	Ruby Dome
Grant, Mount	11239	Mineral	383413N	1184726W	Mount Grant
Granite Peak	11218	White Pine	385038N	1141516W	Minerva Canyon
Fitzgerald, Mount	11210	Elko	403620N	1152435W	Ruby Dome
Duckwater Peak	11188	White Pine	385610N	1152540W	Currant Mountain
Snow Lake Peak	11137	Elko	403620N	1152345W	Ruby Dome
Gilbert, Mount	11125	Elko	403728N	1152643W	Ruby Dome
Verdi Peak	11074	Elko	403840N	1152125W	Verdi Peak
Griffith Peak	11060	Clark	361357N	1153843W	Griffith Peak
King Peak	11031	Elko	402836N	1152811W	Franklin Lake NW

Table 2.4 (*continued*)

Feature Name	Elevation	County	Latitude	Longitude	Map
Lee Peak	11025	Elko	403735N	1152920W	Lamoille

Humboldt Peak	11020	Elko	405404N	1150707W	Humboldt Peak
Grafton, Mount	10990	White Pine	384132N	1144430W	Mount Grafton
Buck Mountain	10980	White Pine	390140N	1141755W	Windy Peak
Mahogany Mountain	10970	Nye	384531N	1171846W	Arc Dome
Toiyabe Range Peak	10960	Nye	390654N	1171219W	Millett Ranch
Tipton Peak	10941	Elko	402523N	1152842W	Franklin Lake NW
Ward Mountain	10936	White Pine	390601N	1145513W	Ward Mountain
Cleve Creek Baldy	10923	White Pine	391531N	1143840W	Cleve Creek Baldy
Lake Peak	10922	Elko	403350N	1152335W	Ruby Dome
Shoshone Mountain	10907	Nye	384012N	1165746W	Jefferson
South Toiyabe Peak	10895	Nye	385511N	1171830W	South Toiyabe Peak
Wines Peak	10893	Elko	403255N	1152414W	Ruby Dome
Pearl Peak	10847	Elko	401407N	1153228W	Pearl Peak
Black Mountain	10845	White Pine	391636N	1143325W	South Schell Peak
Matterhorn	10839	Elko	414839N	1152228W	Gods Pocket Peak
Smith Peak	10839	Elko	403937N	1151954W	Verdi Peak
North Toiyabe Peak	10793	Lander	392136N	1170425W	North Toiyabe Peak
Jarbidge Peak	10789	Elko	415026N	1152327W	Jarbidge South
French Peak	10779	Nye	390046N	1171546W	Tierney Creek
Rose, Mount	10776	Washoe	392038N	1195458W	Mount Rose
Hamilton, Mount	10745	White Pine	391356N	1153227W	Mount Hamilton
McFarland Peak	10745	Clark	362029N	1154329W	Charleston Peak
Cave Mountain	10742	White Pine	390940N	1143650W	Cave Mountain
Spanish Peak	10740	Nye	383932N	1165856W	Jefferson
Pilot Peak	10716	Elko	410116N	1140437W	Pilot Peak
Square Top	10687	Elko	414913N	1152250W	Jarbidge South
Green Mountain	10680	Elko	402344N	1153021W	Green Mountain
Greys Peak	10674	Elko	410126N	1150614W	Welcome
Jumbo Peak	10643	Elko	414949N	1152310W	Jarbidge South
Old Man of the Mountain	10641	Elko	404251N	1151821W	Verdi Peak
Diamond Peak	10614	White Pine	393507N	1154904W	Diamond Peak
Timber Mountain	10603	Nye	382058N	1152958W	Horse Spring Hills
Church Peak	10601	Washoe	392107N	1195520W	Mount Rose
Cass House Peak	10576	Elko	401159N	1153302W	Pearl Peak
Marys River Peak	10565	Elko	414534N	1152140W	Gods Pocket Peak
Cougar Peak	10559	Elko	414733N	1152202W	Gods Pocket Peak
Bald Peak	10535	Elko	415044N	1152327W	Jarbidge South
Corey Peak	10520	Mineral	382654N	1184653W	Corey Peak
Wildcat Peak	10507	Nye	390054N	1164955W	Wildcat Peak
Houghton, Mount	10490	Washoe	392002N	1195619W	Mount Rose

Table 2.4 (*continued*)

Feature Name	Elevation	County	Latitude	Longitude	Map
Summit Mountain	10461	Eureka	392236N	1162738W	Antelope Peak
Hamels Peak	10440	White Pine	390450N	1145428W	Ward Mountain
McAfee Peak	10438	Elko	413118N	1155822W	McAfee Peak
Prospect Peak	10435	Elko	414748N	1152105W	Gods Pocket Peak
Masket Peak	10427	Nye	390204N	1164658W	Wildcat Peak
Kennedy Point	10410	Esmeralda	375305N	1181841W	Mount Montgomery

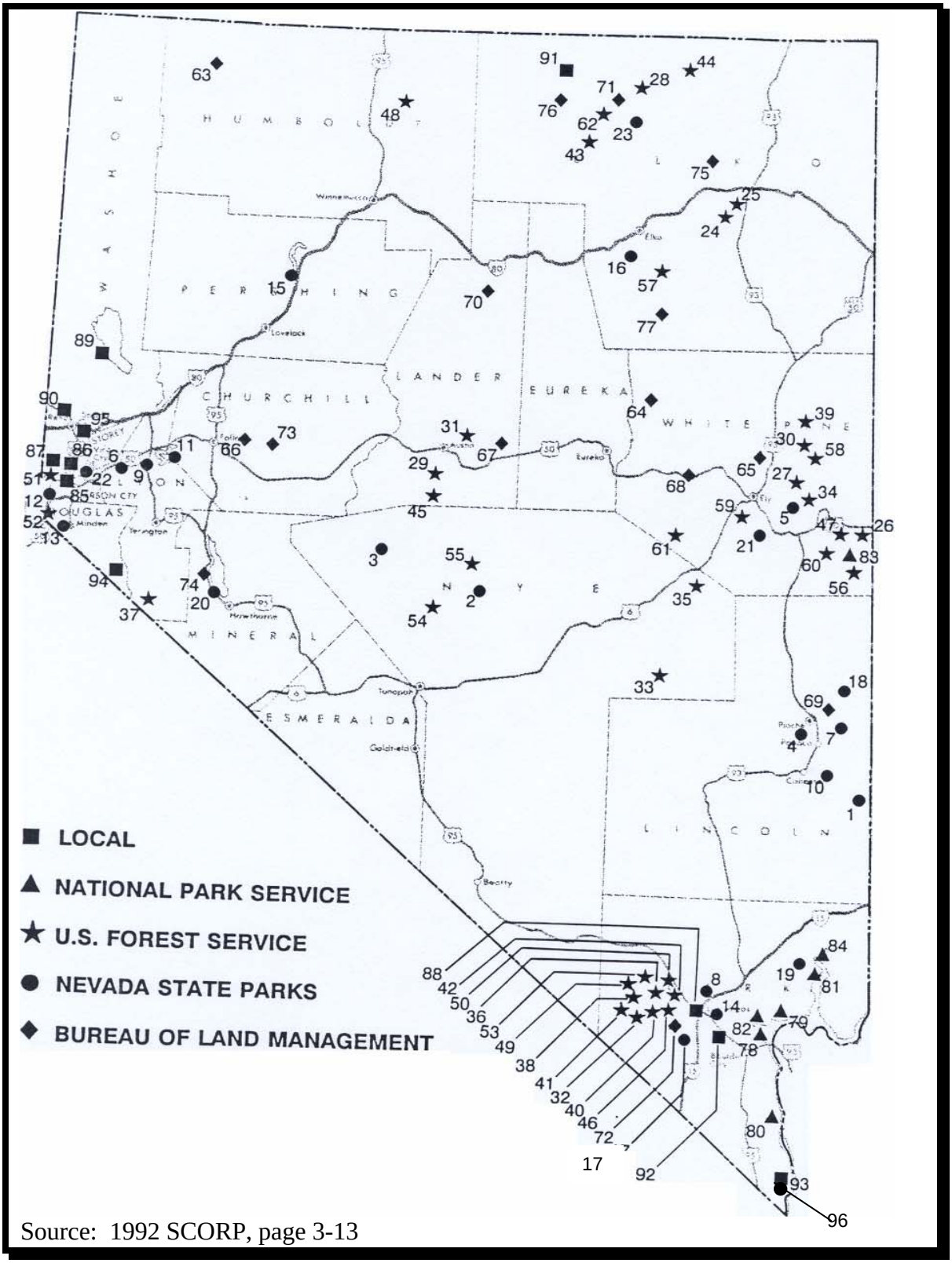
East Sister	10402	Lyon	383124N	1191719W	Desert Creek Peak
Bonanza Peak	10397	Clark	362134N	1154447W	Charleston Peak
Tulle Mountain	10385	Nye	385030N	1163136W	Danville
Relay Peak	10338	Washoe	391852N	1195645W	Mount Rose
Sherman Mountain	10320	White Pine	400708N	1153513W	Sherman Mountain
North Shoshone Peak	10313	Lander	390904N	1172845W	North Shoshone Peak
West Knob	10274	Nye	390212N	1164810W	Wildcat Peak
Spruce Mountain	10262	Elko	403309N	1144915W	Spruce Mountain
Fletcher Peak	10253	Clark	361713N	1153715W	Angel Peak
Morey Peak	10246	Nye	383740N	1161714W	Morey Peak
Antelope Peak	10220	Eureka	392350N	1162733W	Antelope Peak
Drown Peak	10198	Elko	403039N	1152948W	Ruby Dome
Jacks Peak	10198	Elko	412909N	1160017W	Jacks Peak
Callaghan, Mount	10187	Lander	394235N	1165705W	Mount Callaghan
Gods Pocket Peak	10184	Elko	414725N	1151723W	Gods Pocket Peak
Government Peak	10178	Elko	414703N	1152206W	Gods Pocket Peak
Sisters, The	10177	Clark	361952N	1154059W	Charleston Peak
Snowflower Mountain	10170	Washoe	392256N	1195605W	Mount Rose NW
White Pine Peak	10162	Nye	385203N	1152731W	White Pine Peak
White Rock Mountain	10156	Nye	390403N	1164736W	Wildcat Peak

Source: Rowlett, Roger. *America's Roof: Nevada's Highest Named Summits*. http://americasroof.com/highest/nv.shtml (accessed September 26, 2003). Used with permission.

Key Outdoor Recreation Providers

A number of public and private recreation providers offer a variety of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities throughout the state. The following is a summary of these providers at each level. Figure 2.3 illustrates the variety and location of the larger, more significant outdoor recreation areas in Nevada, provided by all levels of government. The legend that follows figure 2.3 lists the parks shown in figure 2.3 by the type of provider.

Figure 2.3
Significant Recreation Sites in Nevada.



Source: 1992 SCORP, page 3-13

Legend for Figure 2.3 on the preceding page.

Nevada State Parks		
1. Beaver Dam	9. Floyd Lamb	17. South Fork Reservoir
2. Belmont Courthouse	10. Fort Churchill	18. Spring Mountain Ranch
3. Berlin-Ichthyosaur	11. Kershaw-Ryan	19. Spring Valley
4. Big Bend	12. Lahontan Reservoir	20. Valley of Fire
5. Cathedral Gorge	13. Lake Tahoe-Nevada	21. Walker Lake
6. Cave Lake	14. Mormon Station	22. Ward Charcoal Ovens
7. Dayton	15. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort	23. Washoe Lake
8. Echo Canyon Reservoir	16. Rye Patch Reservoir	24. Wild Horse
U.S. Forest Service		
25. Angel Creek	38. Fletcher View	51. Old Mill
26. Angel Lake	39. Foxtail	52. Peavine Creek
27. Berry Creek	40. Hilltop	53. Pine Creek
28. Big Bend	41. Jack Creek	54. Powerhouse
29. Big Creek	42. Jarbidge	55. Roads End
30. Bird Creek	43. Kingston	56. South Ruby
31. Bob Scott	44. Kyle Canyon	57. Terraces
32. Cathedral Rock	45. Lye Creek	58. Thomas Canyon
33. Columbine	46. Mahogany Grove	59. Timber Creek
34. Deer Creek	47. Mahoney	60. Ward Mountain
35. Desert Creek	48. McWilliams	61. White River
36. Dolomite Camp	49. Mt. Rose	62. Wild Horse Crossing
37. East Creek	50. Nevada Beach	
Bureau of Land Management		
63. Black Rock Desert	71. High Rock Canyon	79. Sand Mountain
64. Blue Mass Scenic Area	72. Illipah Reservoir	80. South Cork Owyhee River
65. Cleve Creek	73. Meadow Valley	81. Tabor Creek
66. Ely Elk Viewing Area	74. Mill Creek	82. Walker Lake
67. Garnet Hill	75. North Wildhorse Reservoir	83. Water Canyon
68. Goshute Mtn Wildlife Area	76. Pine Forest	84. Wilson Reservoir
69. Grimes Point/Hidden Cave	77. Red Rock Canyon	85. Zunino/Jiggs Reservoir
70. Hickison Petroglyphs	78. Rhyolite Historic Area	
National Park Service		
86. Baker Creek	90. Wheeler Peak	94. Echo Bay
87. Death Valley National Park	91. Boulder Beach	95. Hemenway
88. Lehman Creek, Lower	92. Callville Bay	96. Las Vegas Beach
89. Lehman Creek, Upper	93. Cottonwood Cove	97. Overton Beach
Local		
98. Bower's Mansion	103. Gerlach-Empire Regional Park	108. Sunset Park
99. Camp Success	104. Hidden Valley Regional Park	109. Topaz Lake Park
100. Crystal Peak Park	105. Rancho San Rafael	110. Warrior Point Park
101. Davis Creek Park	106. Saulsbury Wash	
102. Galena Park	107. Sportsmen's Park	

Source: Nevada Department of Transportation. Tom Stephens, P.E., Director. 2002. *Nevada 2002-2003 Official Highway Map*. Carson City, NV. Adaptations by Brad Eckert, Planning and Development Section, Nevada Division of State Parks. 2003. Carson City, NV

Federal Government

Federal agencies with recreational responsibility emphasize the need to provide the public with natural resource recreational areas and related recreational opportunities. The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service are the major federal recreational suppliers in Nevada, with more than 55 million acres of land under their management.

Recreational development on federal land is scattered throughout the state, with a majority occurring near urban areas. Most of the remaining lands managed by these agencies are open for dispersed recreational activities.

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has management responsibility for approximately 1.2 million acres of recreationally designated lands in Nevada (such as the Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Lands, Hickison Petroglyph Site, Walker Lake's Sportsman's Beach, and others). The remaining land, approximately 46.5 million acres, is managed under the multiple-use concept. The lands can be used for recreation, as well as other activities, and generally do not have any developed facilities. A few exceptions to this multiple-use policy exist for special use activities such as mining, cultural resource protection, wildlife protection, and temporary fire closure.

The developed recreational sites and specified recreational areas cover a very small portion of BLM lands. Some of the BLM areas popular for recreation are the 62,000-acre Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands in the Las Vegas District, and Walker Lake in the Carson City District. Of keynote is the culmination of almost 14 years of close cooperation by the BLM, State and members of the public in the management and development of the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands.

The Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) Act of 2000 gives special designation to this area in Northwestern Nevada, including 10 new wilderness areas in the vicinity. The total federal acreage involved is 1,172,000, all of which is administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Of this total, 795,200 acres are in the NCA and 755,400 acres are in wilderness areas. (Please note that 378,600 acres designated as wilderness are located within the NCA boundaries and 376,800 are outside the NCA.) All acreage figures are approximate. (Bureau of Land Management, December 22, 2000).

“The Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon region is a remote region of canyons, playas and mountains. The region is of historical significance for Nevada and the Nation. The famous Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail, which runs through the heart of the region, played a pivotal roll in the western migration and the California Gold Rush. The trail and its scenery remain much the same as it was 150 years ago during the peak of its use. The area's rich history dates far beyond the trail. A wealth of prehistoric remains has been found throughout the region including those of Sabertooth Tigers and giant Woolly Mammoths.

The Black Rock and High Rock region is home to pronghorn, wild horses, raptors, sage grouse, bighorn sheep, cougars, and numerous other species. The region provides some of the largest breeding areas for sagebrush-dependent desert song birds. Warm springs found in the Black Rock and High Rock are critical habitat for threatened and endangered plants and pupfish." (The Wilderness Society undated).

Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) administers over 5.1 million acres, which are managed under a multiple use concept similar to that of the BLM. All or portions of the Humboldt-Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests, as well as the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, are located in Nevada.

The USFS typically manages the higher elevations of mountain ranges. These higher elevations normally receive higher levels of precipitation, have lower annual temperatures, and support the more mountainous vegetation and wildlife habitats. These factors influence the recreational activities and use levels, including most of the state's forested areas.

The current USFS management policy emphasizes dispersed recreational opportunities. Developed recreational sites are limited and are concentrated near urban areas. USFS development emphasizes recreational activities associated with natural resource areas, including campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking and equestrian trails and fishing access.

The more popular USFS areas in Nevada are Lake Tahoe, Ruby Mountains Scenic Area, Jarbidge Wilderness Area, Mt. Charleston, and the Toiyabe Range.

Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages over 2.2 million acres for the protection of wildlife. Under the policies of the USFWS, approximately 750,000 acres are available for some type of recreational use. The major sites in the state are the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the Desert National Wildlife Range, the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range, and the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area. The major recreational uses are fishing, hiking, wildlife photography, and bird watching, and hunting with restrictions.

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) manages 775,000 acres in Nevada (Skudlarek, editor. August 2002), including the Great Basin National Park in White Pine County 77,180 acres (National Park Service 2003), part of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Clark County, and part of the Death Valley National Park in Nye and Esmeralda Counties.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area provides fishing, boating, and camping, while the Great Basin National Park provides camping, hiking, and many more activities. Death Valley is primarily used for sight seeing.

Indian Reservations

Recreational use occurs on tribal owned and trust lands. The most significant sites are Pyramid Lake, Wild Horse Reservoir, and Weber Reservoir. Use of these sites is regulated by each tribe but is normally open to the public.

State Government

The Department of Wildlife and the Division of State Parks in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources both have legislative responsibilities for providing recreation. In addition, the Department of Transportation provides roadside parks and roadside rest areas.

Division of State Parks

The Division of State Parks administers 24 state park units in Nevada (table 2.5). State parks range in size from the small two-acre Belmont Courthouse State Historical Site to the 35,300 acre Valley of Fire State Park and the 30,522 acre Lahontan State Recreation Area. Within the State Park System, there are 13 state parks, 6 state recreation areas, 4 state historical parks, and 1 state historic site. These facilities are dispersed throughout the state with many located within the service area of major population centers.

The State of Nevada owns 77,308 acres, or 58%, of the 132, 523 acres of lands managed by the Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) as state parks in Nevada. The remaining 55,215 acres, or 42%, are federal lands managed by the NDSP. The 132,523 acres are comprised of 29,801 acres of water, over 22%, and 102,722 acres of land, almost 78% (table 2.5).

Department of Wildlife

The Department of Wildlife currently manages nine wetland areas, known as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's), with holdings totaling over 100,000 acres in state owned or leased lands. The WMA's were purchased with the primary objective of protecting and enhancing wetland habitat and their associated wildlife resource values. These wetland areas are precious to Nevada and are managed for a wide diversity of waterfowl, shore and wading birds, aquatic furbearers, game birds, and a long list of other wildlife species. WMA's not only provide a place for wildlife to live and breed, but also natural places for people to visit and recreate. Hunting, fishing, bird watching, photography and wildlife education are the most popular pursuits at the WMA's (**1992 SCORP**, page 3-11).

Local Level

While federal and state recreational suppliers accommodate many recreational needs, local governments provide for the daily recreational needs of Nevadans. Cities and counties meet such needs with regional and neighborhood parks and special use areas. Limited budgetary and staff resources available during the preparation of this report did not permit an inventory of local parks.

Local recreational agencies are usually the main or only source of recreational programs. With the limited numbers of

recreational facilities, local agencies usually try to coordinate their recreational programs with school

Table 2.5
Nevada State Parks Acreage, 2002 (All figures in acres)

	Managed Lands			Ownership		
State Parks	**Land**	**Water**	**Total**	**State**	**Federal Lands**	**Total**
Beaver Dam	2,378	15	2,393	2,393	0	2,393
Berlin-Ichthyosaur	1,153	0	1,153	633	520	1,153
Cathedral Gorge	1,633	0	1,633	1,633	0	1,633
Cave Lake	1,208	32	1,240	1,240	0	1,240
Dayton	152	0	152	152	0	152
Echo Canyon	1,045	35	1,080	920	160	1,080
Floyd Lamb	2,028	10	2,038	998	1,040	2,038
Kershaw-Ryan	264	0	264	264	0	264
Lake Tahoe NV	13,777	465	14,242	14,242	0	14,242
Spring Valley	1,498	65	1,563	1,563	0	1,563
Valley of Fire	35,300	0	35,300	35,300	0	35,300
Spring Mountain Ranch[1]	839	1	840	600	240	840
Washoe Lake[2]	4,115	3,938	8,053	7,013	1,040	8,053
State Recreation Areas						
Big Bend	2,336	0	2,336	2,336	0	2,336
Lahontan[3]	18,422	12,100	30,522	308	30,214	30,522
Rye Patch	8,751	11,490	20,241	0	20,241	20,241
South Fork[4]	2,274	1,650	3,924	3,684	240	3,924
Walker Lake	280	0	280	280	0	280
Wild Horse	120	0	120	120	0	120
State Historical Parks						
Fort Churchill	4,461	0	4,461	3,461	1,000	4,461
Mormon Station	2	0	2	2	0	2
Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort	3	0	3	3	0	3
State Historical Sites						
Belmont Courthouse	2	0	2	2	0	2
Ward Charcoal Ovens	682	0	682	162	520	682
Total Acreage	**102,722**	**29,801**	**132,523**	**77,308**	**55,215**	**132,523**

Source: Adapted by James A. DeLoney from Existing State Park Acreage. December 2002. NDSP. Carson City, Nevada.

[1] 240 acres within Red Rock Canyon NCA are managed by NDSP under management agreement with BLM; no R&PP lease applies and managed acres do not comprise state park boundary.

[2] State-owned acreage includes Washoe Lake.

[3] Lahontan state-owned and BOR managed lands are estimates only.

[4] State-owned acreage includes South Fork Reservoir.

districts to maximize the use of recreational facilities.

Private Providers

The private sector supplements recreational facilities provided by public agencies. In Nevada, developing special use areas on both private and publicly owned lands has done this. The various recreational opportunities offered include equestrian riding stables, snow skiing facilities, boating facilities, gun clubs, golf courses, travel trailer parks and others. The majority of these sites are located in the two most population counties in Nevada, Washoe and Clark Counties.

The importance of the private sector cannot be overlooked. Recreational sites and facilities provided by both the private and public sectors might better complement each other, combining to meet the recreational needs of the residents where one sector cannot do it alone (1992 SCORP. Page 3-11).

The Population of Nevada

The residents of Nevada and out-of-state visitors generate outdoor recreation participation occurring in Nevada. The rapid and increasing growth in the residents of Nevada and the number of out-of-state visitors in recent years has significant impacts on the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities. This section of the plan addresses the population of Nevada, one of the most dynamic state populations in the country.

Historically, the population growth in Nevada has steadily increased (table 2.6). The state's population increased from 77,407 in 1920 to 110,247 in 1940, an increase of over 42% over twenty years. Reno was the largest population center, having grown 74% in two decades. Clark County experienced an even faster growth rate when measured in the percent change. The population of Clark County tripled in size during the same twenty years from 4,859 residents in 1920 to 16,416 in 1940, an increase of 238%.

During the next twenty years from 1940 to 1960, Nevada's population more than doubled from 110,247 to 285,278, an increase of 159%. Clark County's population exploded from 16,416 in 1940 to 127,016 residents in 1960, an increase of 674%! With 127,016 residents, Clark County boasted the largest population of the 17 counties in Nevada, with almost 45% of the entire state population. Washoe County ranked second with 84,743 residents, or almost 30% of the state population, concentrated in the Reno-Sparks area.

From 1960 to 1980, the state's population almost tripled from 285,278 to 800,508 inhabitants, an increase of almost 181%. By 1980, almost 58% of the state's population, 463,087 people, lived in Clark County. Clark County's population had increased almost 264% over 20 years. Washoe County's population still ranked second among the 17 counties with 193,623 people, or 24% of the state's total population. Although Washoe County's population increased 128% from 1960 to 1980, the percentage of the states total population residing in Washoe County slipped from 30% in 1960 to 24% in 1980 due to the phenomenal growth in Clark County.

Table 2.6
County Population Growth in Nevada, 1920-2000

County	1920	1940	1960	1980	1990	2000	Change 1990-2000
Carson City	2,453	3,209	8,063	32,022	40,443	52,457	29.7%
Churchill	4,649	5,317	8,452	13,917	17,938	23,982	33.7%
Clark	4,859	16,416	127,016	463,087	741,368	1,375,765	85.6%
Douglas	1,825	2,056	3,481	19,421	27,637	41,259	49.3%
Elko	8,083	10,912	12,011	17,269	33,463	45,291	35.4%
Esmeralda	2,410	1,554	619	777	1,344	971	-27.8%
Eureka	1,350	1,361	767	1,198	1,547	1,651	6.7%
Humboldt	3,743	4,743	5,708	9,449	12,844	16,106	25.4%
Lander	1,484	1,745	1,566	4,076	6,266	5,794	-7.5%
Lincoln	2,287	4,130	2,431	3,732	3,775	4,165	10.3%
Lyon	4,078	4,076	6,143	13,594	20,001	34,501	72.5%
Mineral	1,848	2,342	6,329	6,217	6,475	5,071	-21.7%
Nye	6,504	3,606	4,374	9,048	17,781	32,485	82.7%
Pershing	2,803	2,713	3,199	3,408	4,336	6,693	54.4%
Storey	1,469	1,216	568	1,503	2,526	3,399	34.6%
Washoe	18,627	32,474	84,743	193,623	254,667	339,486	33.3%
White Pine	8,935	12,377	9,808	8,167	9,264	9,181	-0.9%
NEVADA	**77,407**	**110,247**	**285,278**	**800,508**	**1,203,665**	**2,000,257**	**66.2%**

Sources: Adapted by James A. DeLoney from *Nevada Statistical Abstract, 1990* and U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Censuses of Population at website http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Population/PopList.asp?ST=NV&LongName=Nevada.

Population growth in Nevada continued its rapid spurt from 1980 to 1990. In this ten-year period, Clark County's population grew by 278,281 people, an increase of 60% in just ten years. Nevada's population grew by 403,157 people, or over 50%, during the same ten-year period. Population growth in Clark County accounted for 69% of the State's population growth.

Population growth in Nevada from 1990 to 2000 was even more dramatic. Nevada led the Nation in population growth based on the percentage increase in growth. Overall, the state's population grew by 66%, or 796,592 people. Clark County grew almost 86% to a population of 1,375,765, an increase of 634,397 people in ten years, or an average of 63,440 people every year. This means that the population of Clark County grew an average of 5,287 people every month for ten years

In the year 2000, the population in the other 16 counties in Nevada, excluding Clark County, totaled 624,492 people. Therefore, the population growth in Clark County from 1990-2000 surpassed the entire population of the rest of the state. The population growth in Clark County for one month exceeded the population in each of five counties—Esmeralda (971), Eureka (1,651), Lincoln (4,165), Mineral (5,071), and Storey (3,399).

The population in four counties experienced declined from 1990-2000 (table 2.6). Esmeralda lost almost 28% of its population, compared to almost 22% in Mineral County, over 7% in Lander County, and less than 1% in White Pine County.

These population statistics have important ramifications for the provision of adequate outdoor recreation opportunities for the residents of Nevada. The population massing in Clark County will have even greater impacts on outdoor recreation demand in Clark County and the other 16 counties. Providing adequate opportunities for the 1.4 million residents of Clark County is not a simple matter of giving 69% of the financial resources to Clark County.

A well-designed statewide origin-destination study undertaken to determine where the residents of the 17 counties in Nevada recreate on a destination basis could help to allocate financial resources for outdoor recreation areas and facilities more efficiently and effectively.

Aggressive marketing of underutilized recreational areas in Nevada could reduce the impact on over utilized areas. Federal agencies, owners of 87.5% of the land in Nevada, must be an integral part of the marketing and management solution working cooperatively with appropriate state and local governmental agencies, private commercial entities, non-profit entities, and various user groups.

Table 2.7 compares the population growth in Nevada with the population growth in the four other most rapidly growing states during the 1990-2000 decade. Nevada's percentage gain in population, 66%, far outpaced the other states in terms of percentage of population increase. The population for the entire United States grew by 13% from 1990-2000.

When states are ranked based on the numerical changes in population from 1990-2000, Nevada ranks 13th (Table 2.8).

Table 2.7
Leading States in Population Growth 1990-2000, Percent Gain

Rank	State	1990	2000	% Gain
1	**Nevada**	**1,201,833**	**1,998,257**	**66.3**
2	Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	40.0
3	Colorado	3,294,394	4,301,261	30.6
4	Utah	1,722,850	2,233,169	29.6
5	Idaho	1,006,749	1,293,953	28.5
	U.S. Total	248,709,873	281,421,906	13.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000. Quoted in Greater Phoenix Economic Council. 2003. *Historical Population*. Phoenix, AZ: Greater Phoenix Economic Council, 2003, http://www.gpec.org/InfoCenter/Topics/Demographics/HistoricalPopulation.html (accessed September 12, 2003).

Table 2.8
Resident Population of the 50 States: 1990 and 2000 Ranked by Numerical Change

Rank	State	Population 1990	Population 2000	Number Change in Population	Percent Change in Population
--	United States	248,709,873	281,421,906	32,712,033	13.15
1	California	29,760,021	33,871,648	4,111,627	13.82
2	Texas	16,986,510	20,851,820	3,865,310	22.76
3	Florida	12,937,926	15,982,378	3,044,452	23.53
4	Georgia	6,478,216	8,186,453	1,708,237	26.37
5	Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	1,465,404	39.98
6	North Carolina	6,628,637	8,049,313	1,420,676	21.43
7	Washington	4,866,692	5,894,121	1,027,429	21.11
8	Colorado	3,294,394	4,301,261	1,006,867	30.56
9	Illinois	11,430,602	12,419,293	988,691	8.65
10	New York	17,990,455	18,976,457	986,002	5.48
11	Virginia	6,187,358	7,078,515	891,157	14.40
12	Tennessee	4,877,185	5,689,283	812,098	16.65
13	**Nevada**	**1,201,833**	**1,998,257**	**796,424**	**66.27**
14	New Jersey	7,730,188	8,414,350	684,162	8.85
15	Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,444	643,147	6.92
16	Oregon	2,842,321	3,421,399	579,078	20.37
17	Minnesota	4,375,099	4,919,479	544,380	12.44
18	Indiana	5,544,159	6,080,485	536,326	9.67
19	South Carolina	3,486,703	4,012,012	525,309	15.07
20	Maryland	4,781,468	5,296,486	515,018	10.77
21	Utah	1,722,850	2,233,169	510,319	29.62
22	Ohio	10,847,115	11,353,140	506,025	4.67
23	Missouri	5,117,073	5,595,211	478,138	9.34
24	Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	471,906	9.65
25	Alabama	4,040,587	4,447,100	406,513	10.06
26	Pennsylvania	11,881,643	12,281,054	399,411	3.36

Table 2.8 ***(continued)***

Rank	State	Population	Population	Number	Percent

		1990	2000	Change in Population	Change in Population
27	Kentucky	3,685,296	4,041,769	356,473	9.67
28	Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,349,097	332,672	5.53
29	Arkansas	2,350,725	2,673,400	322,675	13.73
30	Oklahoma	3,145,585	3,450,654	305,069	9.70
31	New Mexico	1,515,069	1,819,046	303,977	20.06
32	Idaho	1,006,749	1,293,953	287,204	28.53
33	Mississippi	2,573,216	2,844,658	271,442	10.55
34	Louisiana	4,219,973	4,468,976	249,003	5.90
35	Kansas	2,477,574	2,688,418	210,844	8.51
36	Iowa	2,776,755	2,926,324	149,569	5.39
37	Nebraska	1,578,385	1,711,263	132,878	8.42
38	New Hampshire	1,109,252	1,235,786	126,534	11.41
39	Connecticut	3,287,116	3,405,565	118,449	3.60
40	Delaware	666,168	783,600	117,432	17.63
41	Hawaii	1,108,229	1,211,537	103,308	9.32
42	Montana	799,065	902,195	103,130	12.91
43	Alaska	550,043	626,932	76,889	13.98
44	South Dakota	696,004	754,844	58,840	8.45
45	Maine	1,227,928	1,274,923	46,995	3.83
46	Vermont	562,758	608,827	46,069	8.19
47	Rhode Island	1,003,464	1,048,319	44,855	4.47
48	Wyoming	453,588	493,782	40,194	8.86
49	West Virginia	1,793,477	1,808,344	14,867	0.83
50	North Dakota	638,800	642,200	3,400	0.53
51	District of Columbia	606,900	572,059	-34,841	-5.74

Source: Decennial Censuses of the United States, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Compiled by the Texas State Data Center, Department of Rural Sociology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.